**Post:**

"As any good knight will tell you, having the right weapons for the right fight is as important as the battle itself. Not having the right equipment, or having the right equipment but not having it in working order, can destroy you. Possibly worse, it can destroy your reputation".(Reff, 2005) Video and photography assignments are what this statement is directed to, but this is true about most everything we as educators do on a daily basis. What happens to the wedding photographer/videographer when he/she shows up for the wedding but forgets to charge batteries and does not bring sufficient memory to complete the job? The job is not completed as promised and the photographer's reputation is jeopardized. What happens when a teacher does not properly prepare for a lesson? The students do not get the proper education and the teacher's professionalism is compromised. There is a sign in our school's field house that says, "90% preparation, 10% perspiration". This is true in video production, education, athletics, and life in general. Once we establish the habit of becoming totally prepared for our assignments, not only will our assignments be successful but our reputation will grow. And as the Boy Scouts say, "Be Prepared".

**Responses:**

I think the Boy Scouts are right when they proclaim "Be Prepared". There is nothing worse than forgetting batteries for a camera, or forgetting that you needed to bring that item from home to enhance the next day's lesson, only to miss the shots or to fail your students. I wholeheartedly agree with the author's quotes and yours as well Jack. I have at times not been as prepared as I could have been and it nearly always spelled disappointment. I have also been on the other end of a person's unpreparedness (a few workshops for example) and it is not pleasant either. As with many things in life and in education, being prepared leads to success and to a positive reputation.

Jack, your quote hit right to the point with me this week. We are preparing and planning non stop (at school sometimes til 9 and then on weekends) for our mandatory Math CScope we have implemented this year. It is very time consuming. I love using CScope but feel that if I do not prepare myself for the next days lesson, my students will not succeed and my reputation as an educator will fall.

Taking time to prepare for anything will produce a better product. Hard work is the main factor that drives any sucessful person. You can tell when a person has given his best while viewing a video. The actions and script will all come together to make sense to the viewer. Time is the main key that is needed for this to happen.

Jack I could not have said it better! The worst thing that can happen is not being prepared in any situation. With narration in a video it is an absolute must that there is a written script, without one the door is open for disaster.

“Be Prepared” is very important especially when you are shooting a video. You need to have all the supplies and be ready to shoot. If you don’t have the right stuff then your video will not look the way you want it to look. Basic Training: Gearing Up for Battle says, “One way to prevent these errors is by preparing a Gear Grid: a list of the client's needs before every shoot.” This goes with your own shooting; make sure you have everything you need before you even start.

One of the biggest things that my students have to do is be prepared for the shoot. If they aren’t then they will run out of time and will not be able to finish their project. Using a storyboard and a check off list allows them to be able to finish their projects on time. Being prepared to create a video is very important because if you are not prepared then you might not get the product that you wanted.

Reff, M. (2005), Basic Training: Gearing Up For Battle, Retrieved on September 9, 2010, from

James, in so many aspect of our life preparation plays a key role. As teachers, to have an effectively engaged lesson, being prepared is arguable the most important aspect of the lesson. Being prepared also allows the teacher to deliver the concept with confidence and ease. Students irrespective of their age can for the most part tell whether a teacher is prepared or not. Shooting a video clip is no exception and also requires a lot of preparation. Students and teachers will have to ensure that they have the right equipment and all the necessary attributes that will make the shoot a success.

James,  
I completely agree with your post. Before we begin anything in a project, we must plan ahead. This ensures that we stay on track and that we stay on the right path during the whole course of the project. Without a plan, or in this case, a storyboard, we may deviate from the main purpose of our video. This could lead to the video losing some of its effectiveness.

In conclusion, being prepared is the key to a successful video production. Success is dependent on having the proper equipment, having backups of needed equipment, a well prepared script and storyboard, well prepared personnel, and proper training. The bottom line...Be Prepared.